

MRCS

WORLD SWIM FOR MALARIA NET DISTRIBUTION REPORT

Background:

Malawi is one of the countries in Sub Sahara Africa where Malaria is a highly endemic disease of some serious public importance affecting all of the 28 districts of the country.

Present statistics show that Malaria disease alone is responsible for over 40% all out patient visits, over 33% of all admissions and over 40% of hospital deaths. Malaria is also a very serious disease in under five children and pregnant women.

The Malawi Red Cross Society (MRC)S has been actively participating in activities relating to malaria disease control and prevention. Two of the NS programs have included Malaria disease prevention through net distribution as one of their main objectives. A national malaria control program has also been established

The World Swim for Malaria Foundation has donated a total of 3,000 LLINs to the HIV/AIDS program to benefit some Home Based Care (HBC) and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) clients. Originally a total of 4 districts with 3,000 beneficiaries were targeted. However a revise was made where a total 6 district with the same number of beneficiaries was targeted.

Net distribution was planned for and done from the 18th to 26th August 2006 in all the six districts. These are ithe present HIV/AIDS program districts which include Nkhatabay in the north, Nkhotakota and Nchinji in the center and Chiradzulu, Blantyre and Mwanza in the south.

All the these districts record high cases of malaria. For instance Nkhatabay and Nkhotakota located along the lake Malawi provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Similarly Blantyre and Nchinji have numerous rivers and swamps.

MODE OF DISTRIBUTION

MRC)S staff and volunteers in partnership with District Health and Social Welfare personnel supervised by a national team took part in the distribution.

SUMMARY

No	Dates	District	Distribution centre	HBC	CBCCs	Total
1	18/8/06	Blantyre	Lundu	192	420	612
2	19/8/06	Mwanza	Kanjedza School	319	300	619
3	21/8/06	Chiradzulu	Nkalo	605	-	605
4	24/8/06	Nkhatabay	Lisale & Banga	121	264	385
5	25/8/06	Nkhotakota	Mwamsambo	125	340	465
6	26/8/06	Mchinji	Mduwa	314	-	314

The distribution occasion was attended by both national and district society officials, Government officials, local traditional leaders and media. During the distribution in Chiradzulu district an independent TV crew from Iceland was present. The information Officer from the MRCS took pictures of all the distributions.

The distribution process was a complete success and has made a positive impact on the principles of the RC in alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable persons at the community level. Procurement of more nets for distribution to those who could not be reached with the present activities will be a positive gesture. The HIV/AIDS volunteers will provide the necessary follow up on net usage and care with the communities. Training in these areas will be provided by the National Malaria Control Program of MRCS .

Acknowledgement

The MRCS is most grateful to the WSM Foundation for the donation of these 3000 nets, to the Regional office in Harare for coordination and logistical support and the National Malaria program for providing the funds used for distribution. To all the volunteers and other stakeholders who assisted in one way or the other and for taking an active part in the distribution process.